

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 18, 2022

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Majority Leader
S-221, The U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
Room S-230, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Leader Schumer and Minority Leader McConnell:

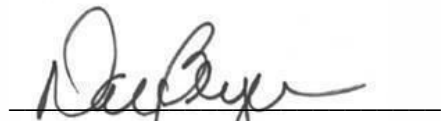
On July 16th, the Suicide Prevention Lifeline transitioned to a 3-digit easy to remember number, 9-8-8. The number is accessible 24/7, from anywhere in the United States, as a 3-digit dialing code, which will connect people to care and support for any mental health-related distress, including mental health or substance use crises. Americans can also dial 988 if they are worried about a loved one who may need crisis support.

The 9-8-8 line is intended to be a more visible, universal option for people in crisis, and should also help reduce the pressures on law enforcement and hospital systems. But that only works if Americans know about the number. On May 12, 2021, the House of Representatives passed H.R. 2862, the Campaign to Prevent Suicide Act. This bipartisan bill is designed to education the American public about the new number, as well as educate the public about how to respond to individuals in crisis and connect them to resources.

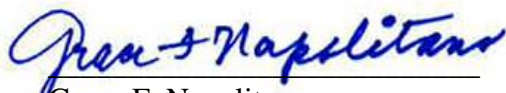
Recent reporting on the transition to 9-8-8 also reveals concerns from State health officials and local call centers on whether they will be able to handle the incoming volume with the new change. On May 12, 2021 and as an amendment to H.R.7666, the House passed H.R.2981, the Suicide Prevention Lifeline Improvement Act. H.R.2981 is a bipartisan bill designed to address these concerns with improved funding, oversight, and enhanced quality assurance planning for the suicide prevention hotline.

We cannot afford to wait. We ask that you expedite consideration for H.R.2862 and H.R.2981 to support the successful launch of the new 9-8-8 number.

Sincerely,


Donald S. Beyer Jr.
Member of Congress


John Katko
Member of Congress


Grace F. Napolitano
Member of Congress


Adam Kinzinger
Member of Congress
